

innovation, scientific momentum, and public-private partnerships can—

(1) generate therapeutic interventions that directly benefit the people suffering from polycystic kidney disease;

(2) save billions of Federal dollars under Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs for dialysis, kidney transplants, immunosuppressant drugs, and related therapies; and

(3) allow several thousand openings on the kidney transplant waiting list;

Whereas improvements in diagnostic technology and the expansion of scientific knowledge about polycystic kidney disease have led to the discovery of the 3 primary genes that cause polycystic kidney disease, and the 3 primary protein products of the genes, and to the understanding of cell structures and signaling pathways that cause cyst growth that has produced multiple polycystic kidney disease clinical drug trials;

Whereas there are thousands of volunteers nationwide dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding, educating patients and their families about polycystic kidney disease to improve treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors; and

Whereas volunteers engage in an annual national awareness event held during the third week of September, making that week an appropriate time to recognize National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on September 13, 2009, and ending on September 19, 2009, as “National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a national week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to support National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities;

(B) to promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease; and

(C) to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

AFGHANISTAN'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 251.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 251) expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, should fulfill its obligations to ensure that women fully participate as candidates and voters in the August 20, 2009, presidential and provincial council elections in Afghanistan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statement relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 251) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 251

Whereas women in Afghanistan play a critical role in establishing accountable governance, fostering economic development, and securing peace in Afghanistan;

Whereas many women in Afghanistan face rising insecurity and consequent physical and verbal violence in seeking political office and exercising their constitutional right to vote;

Whereas the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission has made efforts to consult with domestic and international organizations advocating for full inclusion of all people in Afghanistan in the elections, and has called on the donor community to assist its efforts to open and staff all appropriate polling places throughout Afghanistan; and

Whereas women's rights activists and civil society representatives from throughout Afghanistan gathered on June 25, 2009, and decided to launch the Five Million Afghan Women Campaign, a campaign of 5,000,000 women of Afghanistan to support eligible women's political participation in order to ensure the rule of law and gender equality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the brave women and women-led organizations of Afghanistan on the launch of the Five Million Afghan Women Campaign;

(2) urges the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that sufficient staffing is in place in women's polling stations, including security staff and equipment and appropriate polling place personnel;

(3) urges the Government of Afghanistan and the religious, community, and cultural leaders of Afghanistan to make every effort to encourage eligible women to participate in the August 20, 2009, elections;

(4) urges the Government of Afghanistan to fully include women in formal committees and bodies charged with election security and related processes;

(5) urges the Government of Afghanistan and the Independent Electoral Commission to continue to consult with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations regarding women's participation in the elections, in order to guarantee a free and fair election process, including providing equal access for women candidates to media outlets as well as ensuring adequate security and transportation for women voters on election day;

(6) encourages the Secretary of State, including through the United States Agency for International Development, to continue to mobilize funding and resources of the United States for programs throughout Afghanistan to raise the awareness of women in Afghanistan regarding governance, increase women's political participation in the August 20, 2009, and future elections, and support such women's ability to exercise their rights as citizens; and

(7) urges the new Government of Afghanistan elected on August 20, 2009, to employ and engage women in meaningful roles and positions in such new government.

AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 252.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 252) authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 252) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 252

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of Rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the United States Senate in actual session on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-498, as amended by Public Law 110-315, appoints the following individuals to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: Sharon Wurm of Nevada and John McNamara of Illinois.

AUTHORITY TO REPORT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, September 2, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority and minority